

**Department of Human Services
Office of Rehabilitation Services
State Rehabilitation Council**

January 10, 2005

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

**RI Department of Labor and Training
Center General Complex 73 (Main conference Room)
1511 Pontiac Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920**

Meeting Minutes

Present from State Rehabilitation Council: William Anderson, Janice Belasco, Robin Dolan, Craig Enos, Joseph Ferreira, Steven Florio, Margaret Hoyer, Catherine Sansonetti, J. David Sienko, Michaela Stannard

Present from Agency: Stephen Brunero, Gary Wier

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS - The Chair called meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

2. OLD BUSINESS – William Anderson

1. Additions or deletions to the Agenda:

M. Hoyer asked for a discussion on parking situation in Providence.

J. Ferreira asked for a discussion regarding R. Greene.

2. Approval of minutes

Motion

C. Enos made a motion seconded by J. Ferreira and unanimously accepted to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2004 meeting.

3. NEW BUSINESS –B. Anderson

Annual SRC Report: - A draft statement for the annual report was disseminated to the Council. I will get out copies of the subcommittees chairs reports that will be part of the annual report. This will comprise the annual report. I will make some editorial changes but otherwise what you see is what you get. R. Carroll and I talked about last years report and that it was very nicely done but rather expensive to put out. This year we are not going to be able to do that but we will have someone do something similar to this in house. We will take photos at the March 7th meeting.

Motion

C. Enos made a motion seconded by J. Belasco and unanimously

accepted to use this as a draft and at the March meeting present a written copy with mark up of the annual report for 2004 with corrections for the March meeting.

SRC Training - S. Brunero presented handouts for the Regional 1 State Rehabilitation Training. The RSA has funds for at least three SRC members from each region.

B. Andersen: It is very important to get someone who is going to be on the council more than just the next year.

D. Sienko: This is a good opportunity to incubate new leaders to take on a larger role on the Council. We did not have this training, and the benefit of this.

By-laws – C. Enos

We were going to try and meet but we have not. However taking a look at what the By-laws currently state... and comments from the Governor's legal counsel. The By-laws are a little vague on this issue so it is a good time to perhaps add language and so those nominated and waiting for Governor's approval. We will be meeting before the next meeting and will bring this up at the March meeting.

Break

Transportation Letters – B. Anderson

One of the motions we had at the last meeting was for the Chair to send letters out to the Governor and both the House and Senate finance committee chairs. The legislators have not yet settled on chairs of finance committee's. So as of this week I will be sending them out to the chairs since we will know who they are.

Honoring R. Greene – B. Anderson

If we could arrange a date for a social event among the members in June where we could get a time after the State Plan is done where we could get together for an award ceremony. When we have a date on the State Plan hearing we will send out announcements on this.

Reduction of Handicapped Parking in Providence – M. Hoyer

I heard through the grapevine they are going to be taking some of the handicap spaces away from Providence, right in front of ORS on Fountain Street.

D. Sienko: I asked that once and I asked about that crosswalk, and why they do not have cone and I was told they keep getting run over.

S. Brunero: It is a legitimate complaint, actually a few years ago someone did get killed. There are seven spots in front of our building and when deliveries are made. We do have parking for all consumers right up the street at the civic center parking lot.

R. Dolan: Where is the parking?

S. Brunero: It is the civic center parking lot right up the street on the same side of the street as ORS.

J. Ferreira: One of my biggest pet peeve is someone that challenges the system. There are a lot of people who park there that should not be there. I think they look the other way.

B. Anderson: Would you like me to send a letter to the chief of police in Providence.

M. Hoyer: I think that something should be addressed dealing with handicapped spaces.

R. Dolan: I heard something about them curbing parking in general in the city not just handicapped.

S. Brunero: There is a downtown revitalization committee and there has been a talk for additional parking because some street spots are going to be reduced. It is something we need to be aware of.

S. Florio: Are they going to reduce street parking?

S. Brunero: Yes there is a reduction of street parking. But there is a need for more parking in general

J. Ferreira: Fountain street has the light at the end and if it could be moved and put in front of fountain and Union street, it would be so much better. Number one it would be safer for pedestrians.

B. Anderson: Lets put this on the agenda for March, additionally, something about the curb walking.

ORS Administrators Report – S. Brunero

We had a nice year setting records over 1900 new applications that is a record. We set records 635 of successful closures. We had a good year and we want to improve some of the areas.

S. Florio: Out of the successful closures how many where reopened? When someone 's case was closed and then the case needed to be reopened.

S. Brunero: I do not have those figures here but if I had to guess I would say 10-12 it was very small.

This years-Comprehensive Needs Assessment: ORS has information that currently exists and would like the SRC to assist in taking a look at the data. We are organizing a workgroup, comprised of Monica Dzialo, Joseph Orsi, and Regina Connor and a few members form the SRC who are interested in the Needs analysis and surveys, to review information in the next few weeks.

R. Dolan: Does this follow under the QA committee?

S. Brunero: I would open it up to everyone. There are a lot of activities going on right now. So anyone who has any experience with surveys.

Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Baker, Staff

State Rehabilitation Council